

# Religion

## Clergy Comment

### What are the only sure things in life?

By REV. TOM BANDY

It's an old saying: "The only sure things in life are death and taxes." It is an old saying, but certainly not a Christian one.

Easter has let it be known that death is not all the "sure thing" everybody thought it was. In fact, the last word of God for the world is "life" rather than Death.

And what about taxes? Does the Faith have anything to say about that?

This spring the first topic of conversation among friends at the barber shop, aside from the crazy weather, is money. Perhaps the controversy over the federal budget, and the expected difficulties of the provincial budget, has many people worried.

Making financial "ends" meet for poorer families in Ontario, including single parents and seniors, may

be downright impossible.

We all know there are two ways to respond to financial crisis. One is to panic, and we see a lot of that. Irrational cutbacks here, and irrational extravagance there.

The other alternative is to prioritize: clarify exactly what is most important in your life which you will support with your dollars. One thing we need to recognize is that Christians are apt to prioritize their financial concerns differently than others in society.

Christians tend to seek a simpler, less ostentatious lifestyle. They tend to emphasize the things of real physical, mental, emotional, and relational health for themselves, their families, and their community. And they tend to de-emphasize those things which are merely pleasurable.

More than this, Christians tend

to be as much concerned about others in society as themselves. They tend to be more willing to spend money on others out of sheer compassion and generosity.

Christians know that there are many intangible things which are more important in life than the myriad expensive possessions with which so many middle class people surround themselves.

To put it simply, Christians are aware of their calling to follow Christ. They are aware that Christ had only one pair of sandals, a single change of clothes, and a somewhat smelly donkey for transportation. The purpose in life for Jesus was not to acquire financial security, but to risk promoting God's realm of love and justice.

No doubt many questions might be addressed to governments about their moral assump-

tions and ethical commitments when they set financial priorities. My concern here is about moral assumptions. What priorities will have your financial support in the challenging months ahead?

I think the church might be one. Every charitable institution has its problems, but the church is still your best bet to bring more help, to more people, in more ways, with more kindness, than any other social institution.

It can also bring you more satisfaction, more spiritual growth, and more deep-down contentment than any other human organization. So if you are trimming your family spending, I suggest you cut down on lottery tickets and double your church pledge. It's a better investment.

I think other priorities which

will be given serious attention by Christians include many charities and social services which have been hurt by federal and provincial budgeting.

Christians are smart enough to know the long term benefits of eliminating deficits; but, unlike many in society, they are compassionate enough to help those who are suffering today and can't afford to wait for the deficit to be reduced.

Probably the same fellow who invented the saying about death and taxes, also invented that other un-Christian saying, "Charity begins at home." For Jesus, charity began with outcasts and strangers. It was responsibility that began at home.

(Rev. Bandy is with St. Andrew's United Church in Georgetown.)



DIRECTORY of Halton Hills

## Churches & Temples

### MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

177 Maple Avenue, Georgetown  
Pastor Edwin H. Mitchell 877-6655/0320

**SUNDAYS**  
9:45 AM Sunday School - for all - all summer  
11:00 AM 6:30 PM WORSHIP & PRAISE  
Special earlier PM Service holiday weekends  
**WEEKDAYS**  
Baseball and Recreation  
Mid-Week Bible Study & Prayer  
Special Youth Activities

YOU ARE WELCOME

### ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Winston Churchill, South of Hwy. 7  
Norval  
Rev. Richard Ruggle, MA, B.Th.  
877-3404

**SERVICES**  
10:30 a.m.  
All Are Welcome



### NORVAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Angus Sutherland  
Time: 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School  
During Church

Nursery Available

TO PLACE YOUR CHURCH AD, ANNOUNCEMENT OR COMING EVENT, CALL BETH AT 877-5266 OR 853-2219

### Christian Reformed Church

Trafalgar Rd.  
SUNDAY 10:00 A.M. & 4:30 P.M.

Pastors: Rev. J. De Jong  
Rev. B. Stofstra

**The Back to God Hour Sundays:**  
7:30 A.M. Hamilton CHAM 1280  
7:30 P.M. Burlington FM108  
9:00 P.M. Guelph CJOY 1460  
and Mon.-Fri. Faith 20  
5:00 A.M. Global TV Ch. 6-22

Ladies Coffee Break Tues. 9:15 a.m.

### ST. ANDREWS UNITED CHURCH

Minister:  
Rev. T.G. Bandy  
B.A., M. Div., Th.D.  
Rev. Carol Gierak  
B.A., M. Div.  
89 Mountainview  
877-4482

10 a.m.  
- Morning Worship  
- Sunday School  
- Nursery Facilities

"Building Tomorrow's Church Today"

### SALVATION ARMY ACTON CORPS

114 Mill St. E.  
853-1140, 853-1435

**SUNDAYS**  
- Sunday School 9:45 a.m. for all ages  
- Morning Worship 11 a.m.  
- Gospel Service 7 p.m.

**WEDNESDAYS**  
- Junior Soldier Classes 6 p.m.  
- Prayer & Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

**THURSDAYS**  
- Home League (Ladies' Group) 7:30 p.m.

Captain & Mrs. Wade Budgett  
Corps Officers

### IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. Fritz Schmitt

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

Hear the Lutheran Hour  
Sunday 7:00 a.m.  
on CKOC AM 1150

### St. George's Anglican Church

60 Guelph St., Georgetown 877-8044

Rector:  
Rev. Thomas M.S. Kingston, B.A., B.Th.

Curate:  
Rev. Richard M. Jones, B.A., M.Div.

Director of Music:  
Ms. Valerie Nichol, A.R.C.T.,  
A.Mus., L.T.C.I.

**Services**  
8:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
for all ages

### KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Corner Main & Church  
Georgetown

10:00 a.m.—Sunday School  
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship

Junior Congregation  
Nursery Facilities  
Peter Barrow, B.D., Minister

### Halton Gospel Temple

Phone (416) 877-2759

Highway 7 West of Trafalgar Rd., Georgetown  
Affiliated with P.A.O.C.

Rev. David Tapley, Pastor  
Youth Pastor Dale Reddekopp

9:45 a.m. - Christian Education  
11:00 a.m. - Family Worship  
6:30 p.m. Evening Praise  
Wed. 7 p.m. - Family Night  
Fri. 7:30 p.m. - Youth Alive

### Mountainview Baptist Church

102 Mountainview Rd. S.  
Pastor: David Caldwell  
Church: 877-5854  
Home: 873-2184

Nursery and Sunday School  
meets during service.  
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship  
Home Fellowship meets  
You Are Welcome!

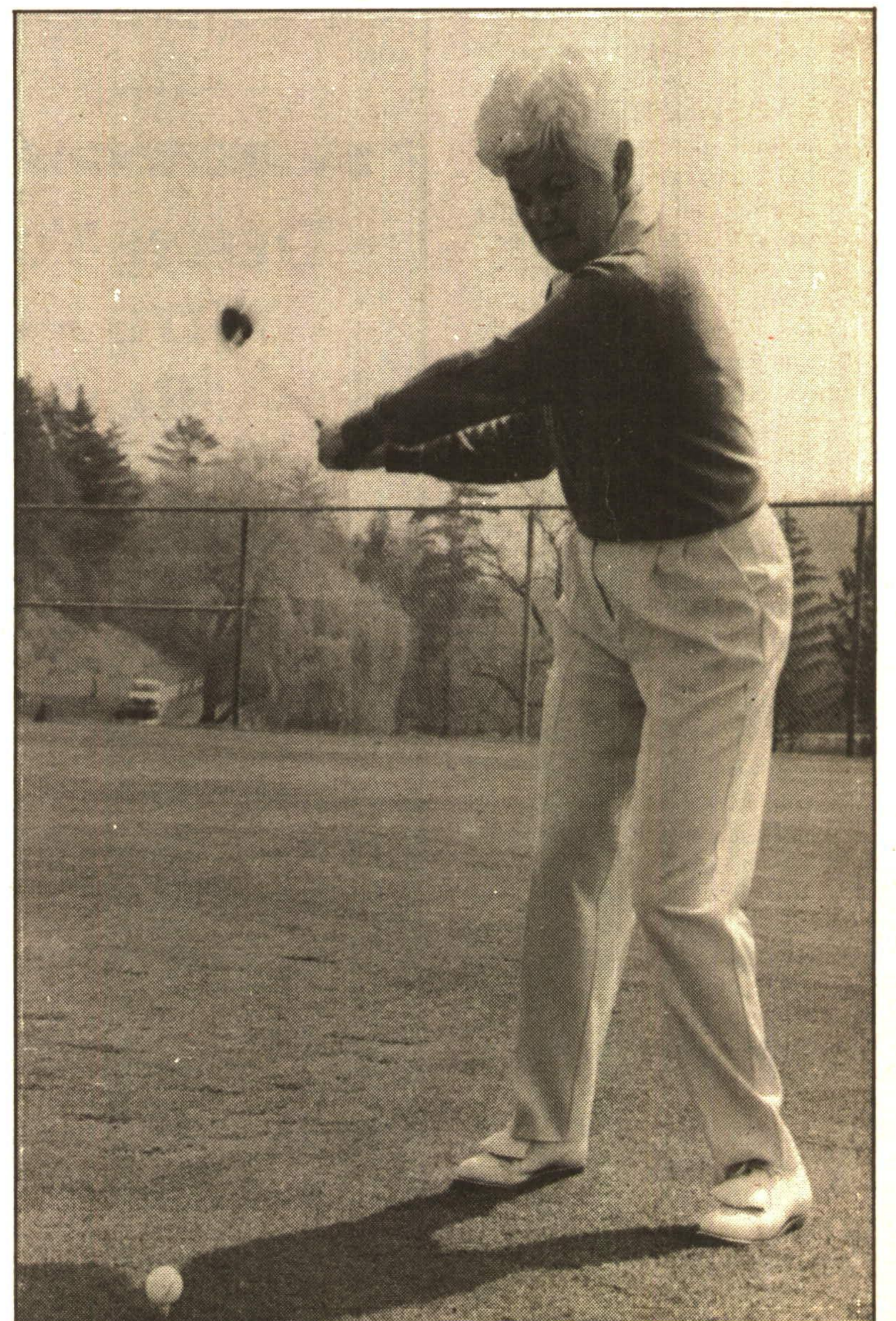
## Seminarian is appointed for Holy Cross Church

A seminarian has been appointed to Holy Cross Church Parish in Georgetown.

The appointment of Terry Sehl was made by Bishop Tonnos recently. Terry will be helping out through the summer months.

He has completed his first year of theology at John XXIII Seminary in Boston, Massachusetts.

Terry taught elementary school in the Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge area before deciding to study for the priesthood for the Diocese of Hamilton.



### Teeing off

Marion Allen of Brampton gets set to swing at the ball during last week's official opening of the ladies golf season at North Halton Golf and Country Club. The ladies played both nine and 18 holes on the first event of the season and then held a brief meeting afterwards.